2/23/11

Dear Sidney, Andrea and by now perhaps more than Kathy and Jon,

After Andrea told me of your surgery and plans for a convalescence you were on my mind much. Then with other things on it out of mind. Until just now, when I was writing something that reminded me of Gordon harbord. Then immediately you.

I hope you have come along well and are again doing your thing with less dedication to provoking the old ulcer and propagating new ones.

Things are pretty much as they have been with us. ~~XXXXX~~ I have gradually adjusted to a need for 6-7 hours sleep and most nights now get that. Took some doing. All in all I get along well. I do not have the physical strength or stamina I had but I'm far from a cripple. Earlier this month I walked from Key Bridge to the National Press Bldg, carrying a heavy attache case. I do try to be careful about cutting and bruising myself but I also do all our mowing and earth moving, like from cleaning the silt that collects in the pond inlet. I just do less at a time.

The county confiscated the Hyattstown property for part of a park. While we were underpaid there was nothing we could do. We used the first year's payment to pay off our debts. At last we have none. With this year's I got us some decent electronic equipment, tuner, tape deck, record player, the schmeer. So we enjoy good music. Even a decent bed-sized set so Lil can enjoy British drama while I work. And what haw become her pride and joy, a xerox-type copier. Only we own ~~x~~ it. No renatls and per-copy costs.

The became essential because of breakthroughs I have made in obtaining once-suppressed official records. To give you an idea, I now have about 20 file cabinets. I'm getting about 800 pages a week from the FBI alone. Thousands at a time from CIA. Even when I lose in court I win. Mostly I win win, not lose win.

This, too, reminds me of you, as it did when I went over some of these records. There are thousands I've not been able to read. Several would make fine movies, I think. (Not all is on political assassinations.) There is a kind of Seven Days in May in some of the CIA records I have obtained. Some of their right-wing types almost converted the JFK assassination into World War III.

After the thrombisis (pl) I began to deposit my papers at Wisconsin. I expect a fine history prof who has become a friend within the next two weeks to take a batch of the older ones back. My major interests as of this moment of accumulating more for this archive and preparing to write a new King assassination book. For the book I'm getting all the FBI's records. Imagine that! What I have to now, from the main headquarters file alone, is a stack a lot higher than you and I are. It will make an archive that will be studied for years.

Wisconsin has a very open attitude I like. They'll ~~xxx~~ share. They have not been able to come up with foundation support because of the economics of education these days. The deal with them is that is such support comes from a source that requires a deposit elsewhere, there will be that deposit. But they have already involved their communications school in this. And they have commenced making what I have provided available to other schools and t e public electronic media. We've not found time for the oral histories they have wanted for more than five years because I keep working.

You never saw our tame bass and golden trout. We lost them all to the severe winter. We have restocked with goldfish only. (We have a beautiful place in a convenient location.) Lil has a garden that is a bit much for her and many flowers she can t really take care of. This year she became a tax consultant on her own. It worked out well. She had more than she should have tried to handle. One of her clients is repairing our swimming pool. Another paved our 400 feet of lane, also winter-damaged, so now when she walks to the mail box it is as a smooth surface, no stones to tempt her trick knee. Still another provides us with the best Chinese food I've ever tasted. And we stay busy. I drive little because it is much for me. To Washington only when Lil must go there. I go with friends or by bus, poor service and schedule, under conditions that let me move the legs and keep the blood from puddling in the feet.

I have not been in New York since I spoke at Hunter, when I'd hoped to see Kathy. More than a year ago. I do get around when I must. I'll be going to Dallas in about three weeks. A friend who drives to Washington will take me to a hotel from which I can leave by cab. To New York, Greyhound to Baltimore, walk to train station and metroliner. It is all possible, if it takes a bit more time.

However, I do no unnecessary travelling. What I must do one way or another I do do and one way or another it is no real sweat. The only real problems have come from the doctors not preparing me. Thus when they released me to debate David Belin, Gerald Ford's pal on the Warren Commission and his selection to head the Rockefeller Commission, I had not been told about the circulatory problems. The next day I had to be single-loaded onto the plane when I left Nashville. The debate was at Vanderbilt. And I amanaged to do him in.

This may amuse you - and I'll ramble until Lil releases the tub to me.

For some reason Vanderbilt, where I knew nobody, insisted on a confrontation between Belin, that Judenrat, and me only. When I learned I would be hospitalized I let the speakers bureau know. They called at the most inopportune moment, during my admission physical examination and at the moment of the prostate examination.

The college kids then were great. One was in the room and was the phone intermediary. Another kept me supplied with Scotch. Still another rigged his van up so he could transport me with my legs up. He actually had a chair between the seats for me! They organized themselves to deliver me to airports and pick me at when I returned. For the first six months they did not let me travel by air alone. Imagine that! And paid their own expenses. (I suspect one did by selling pot.) The last time they did not insist on accompanying me was about a year ago when I had a lecture to deliver in Detroit. Now they are satisfied I can hack it and they leave me alone.

It is great to be free of parental-like restraints.

If you ever get to Washington please let me know so we can get together if you will not come here. I can catch a 7 a.m. bus that will have me there at 8:30.

We hope you are both well and happy and that the kids are, too. Our best to them.

Sincerely,